

From: Mason, Todd
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/23/02 3:32pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

OLE_LINK2OLE_LINK1Greetings,

I am writing to express my opinion on the proposed settlement to the Microsoft Antitrust case.

I feel the proposed settlement is nowhere near as harsh as it should be. For years Microsoft has been cramming their software down the throats of large corporations, small businesses, and the individual consumer while using its financial muscle to knock out any competitor that represents even the smallest bit of threat. Right now it is impossible to purchase an IBM compatible desktop PC or laptop PC that does not have a version of windows pre-installed on it. Microsoft tells PC manufacturers that if they do not sell **ALL** of their PCs with windows on them, they cannot sell **ANY** of their PCs with windows on them. This does not give the consumer a choice about how to use the PC they are paying for, it also increases the price of that PC dramatically because the price of the license for Windows (and usually Office) is built into the cost of the PC. About one year ago I purchased a laptop form Compaq and was forced to have it pre-installed with Microsoft Windows ME(Millennium Edition) and Microsoft Office 2000. I had no intention of running Windows on the laptop when I purchased it, but had to pay for the licenses anyway. I think that if this settlement is accepted it will do little if anything at all to stop Microsoft's illegal practices. I urge you to reject the current proposal and come up with a new settlement that will show Microsoft that citizens of this country have had enough of their schemes.

Many great ideas for changes to the proposed settlement are available at the following web site.

<<http://www.kegel.com/remedy/remedy2.html>>
<http://www.kegel.com/remedy/remedy2.html>

Thank you for your time.

Todd Mason

Computer Technician

North Haven CT, 06473